

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:ASCHIFFERDECKER/S/NM:JMCLAUGHLIN:MRC

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

S/S - MR. MOFFAT

NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

IO/HDC:LCAVANAUGH (DRAFT)

NEA/RA:TGRANT (DRAFT)

EUR/EE:WSHEPARD (DRAFT)

----- 115021

R 050020Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 242675

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, HU, AF

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN EFFORTS TO BUY POPPY STRAW IN
AFGHANISTAN

REF: BUDAPEST 2985; KABUL 6622

1. FYI. ACCORDING TO UN FIGURES, HUNGARY PROCESSED
4,128 TONS OF POPPY STRAW FOR MANUFACTURE OF MORPHINE IN
1972. SINCE NO IMPORTS WERE REPORTED, WE ASSUME THIS
REPRESENTED DOMESTIC CULTIVATION. LAST YEAR FOR WHICH
HUNGARY REPORTED IMPORTS OF POPPY STRAW WAS 1971, IN WHICH
1,223 TONS WERE IMPORTED. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS IN HUNGARY
THIS YEAR MAY HAVE RESULTED IN RELATIVELY POOR DOMESTIC
POPPY STRAW CROP, LEADING HUNGARY TO SEEK IMPORTS FOR ITS
PROCESSING FACILITIES. "POPPY STRAW" REFERS TO INCISED
OR UNINCISED POPPY CAPSULES INCLUDING ONLY LIMITED
AMOUNT OF STEM (ONE OR TWO INCHES). IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT
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BE OF SIGNIFICANT IF ANY USE IN ROPE PRODUCTION.

2. AS UN SEEMS HAVE MATTER WELL IN HAND WE SEE NO NEED
FOR INQUIRY OF GOH AT THIS TIME, BUT IF EMBASSY SHOULD
WISH DISCUSS QUESTION IN CONNECTION WITH GENERAL NARCOTICS
REVIEW, DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION. USG STRONGLY SUPPORTS
INCB ACTION TO DISSUADE HUNGARIANS AND AFGHANS FROM
CONSUMMATING SALE BUT WE PREFER KEEP INCB IN FOREFRONT THIS

EFFORT. THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT ANY EMBASSY INQUIRY BE
MADE IN LOW KEY MANNER. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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